

REMARKS

The application has been amended to place the application in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Claims 1-11 and 13-16 were previously pending in the application. Claims 1 and 16 are canceled, leaving claims 2-11 and 13-15. Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claim 15 is allowed. In reliance thereon, the dependent claims have been amended to depend from claim 15.

Canceling claims 1 and 16 is believed to obviate the rejection over HANSSON et al. WO 96/20669.

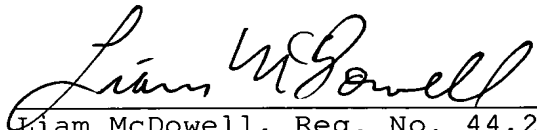
Amending claims 2-11 and 13-14 to depend from allowed claim 15 is believed to obviate the rejection of these claims over HANSSON et al.

Since the claims remaining in the application were indicated as allowed or depend from an allowed claim and since there are believed no outstanding formal matters, the application is believed in condition for allowance. An early notification of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Liam McDowell", is written over a horizontal line.

Liam McDowell, Reg. No. 44,231  
745 South 23<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Arlington, VA 22202  
Telephone (703) 521-2297  
Telefax (703) 685-0573  
(703) 979-4709

LM/lrs